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Agenda item 85 (h)

Sustainable development: rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (h) was taken at the 38th and 39th meetings, on 7 and 14 December 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.38 and 39).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.61 and A/C.2/59/L.61/Rev.1

2. At the 38th meeting, on 7 December, the representative of Kyrgyzstan, on behalf of Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas" (A/C.2/59/L.61). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Bolivia and Costa Rica joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-8.

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"*Recalling also* its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002 and 58/203 and 58/216 of 23 December 2003,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000,

"*Recognizing* the socio-economic and ecological challenges often faced by the poor mountain countries, where, for the most part, the territory is located in alpine regions difficult of access,

"*Underlining* the fact that there remain key challenges to implementing socio-economic development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions,

"*Stressing* the need to create international economic conditions reflecting the higher vulnerability of mountain regions,

"*Noting* that the continuing debt and debt-servicing obligations of developing countries, in particular the poor mountain countries, constitute an element that adversely affects their development,

"1. *Recommends* the donor countries and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to take appropriate debt relief measures for poor mountain countries through such actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session."

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Nepal and Benin (see A/C.2/59/SR.38).

4. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairman of the Committee, Marco Balarezo (Peru) (see A/C.2/59/SR.38).

5. At its 39th meeting, on 14 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution, entitled "Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas" (A/C.2/59/L.61/Rev.1).

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman, Ewa Anzorge (Poland) (see A/C.2/59/SR.39).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.61/Rev.1 (see para. 9).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Kyrgyzstan.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002 and 58/216 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] adopted on 8 September 2000,

Recalling chapter 13 of Agenda 21[2] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Decides to consider the sub-item "Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas" at its sixtieth session, under the agenda item "Sustainable development", bearing in mind its resolution 58/216.

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.